

REMARKS

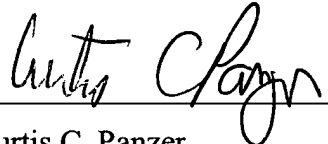
This is in response to a Notice of Non-compliant Amendment dated November 20, 2008.

As explained in the Notice, new claim 43 (filed in the Amendment of August 4, 2008) was deemed non-complaint because it was underlined. On December 2, 2008, the undersigned attorney called Examiner Stockton to ask the proper procedure for correcting the problem. The Examiner indicated that when a claim is deemed non-compliant, none of the claims is entered. Thus, the proper procedure would be to submit the entire slate of claims submitted on August 4, 2008, exactly as they were submitted, with the exception that claim 43 should not be underlined. Examiner also took the opportunity to point out that while the status of "Presently Amended" is accepted at the Patent office, the proper designation is "Currently Amended".

Applicants respectfully submit that the present slate of claims mirrors those submitted on August 4, 2008 with the exceptions that claim 43 is not underlined, and "Presently Amended" is replaced with "Currently Amended". As such the claims presented are fully supported by the original claims.

Having addressed the outstanding issues, Applicants respectfully request early examination and allowance of the claims. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number provided below if such would advance the prosecution of this application. Applicant believes no additional fees are due, but the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees required in connection with this response to Merck Deposit Account No. 13-2755.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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Date: December 3, 2008